



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 433

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 6955

House of Representatives, April 24, 2001

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. STRATTON of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING UNLICENSED DOGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-349 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 On June 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, upon the request of a town
4 clerk or a municipal animal population control officer, a veterinarian
5 may provide such clerk or officer with a list of rabies vaccinations
6 administered to dogs that such veterinarian administered within
7 twelve months of the reporting date. The town clerk of each town
8 shall, annually, on or before July first, provide the municipal animal
9 control officer or regional animal control officer with a copy of each
10 dog license issued by such clerk and each list of rabies vaccinations
11 administered by veterinarians in such town and received by such town
12 clerk. Such municipal animal control officer or regional animal control
13 officer shall thereupon make diligent search for any unlicensed dog
14 required to be licensed by section 22-338. The commissioner shall

15 adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54
16 establishing procedures for such search. If the owner of any such
17 unlicensed dog is not known, the municipal animal control officer or
18 regional animal control officer shall impound such dog. The owning or
19 keeping of an unlicensed or impounded dog and the failure to
20 purchase a license and pay the advertising and redemption fee within
21 one hundred and twenty hours from the time the dog was impounded
22 shall be an infraction.

23 Sec. 2. Section 22-363 of the general statutes is repealed and the
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

25 No person shall own or harbor a dog or dogs which is or are a
26 nuisance by reason of vicious disposition or excessive barking or other
27 disturbance, or, by such barking or other disturbance, is or are a source
28 of annoyance to any sick person residing in the immediate vicinity or
29 within the sound of such dog's barking. Violation of any provision of
30 this section shall be an infraction for the first offense and such person
31 shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned not
32 more than thirty days or both for each subsequent offense and the
33 court or judge may make such order concerning the restraint or
34 disposal of such dog or dogs as may be deemed necessary.

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The language in section 1 was clarified so as to specifically indicate that the relevant list of vaccinations is a list of vaccinations administered to dogs.

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Minimal Revenue Gain

Affected Agencies: Judicial Department, Department of Agriculture

Municipal Impact: Minimal Cost

Explanation**State and Municipal Impact:**

The bill would result in a minimal revenue gain to the state by increasing the range of dog behavior subject to an infraction of \$60. The state collected \$47,590 in revenue related to 1,576 offenses under current law in 2000. No significant increase in revenue is anticipated as a result of the bill. It should be noted that it is unlikely that subsequent violations of the bill would result in individuals being incarcerated (none are under current law).

The bill requires certain town officials to forward lists of dogs in their possessions that received rabies vaccinations to the animal control officer of the town or region. This can be handled within the existing resources of towns.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6955

AN ACT CONCERNING UNLICENSED DOGS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes town clerks and municipal animal population control officers, beginning June 1, 2002 and annually thereafter, to ask veterinarians for a list of rabies shots the veterinarian administered to dogs in the preceding 12 months. The bill does not require veterinarians to provide the information. Town clerks must give copies of such lists received from veterinarians in their towns to municipal or regional animal control officers by July 1 each year. It is unclear why a municipal animal control officer would need to obtain this information from a town clerk, since the bill allows him to request it directly.

The bill also makes it an offense for a person to own or harbor a dog or dogs whose excessive barking annoys a sick person living within the sound of the barking. Under current law, owning or harboring a barking dog is an offense in such a case only if the sick person lives in the immediate vicinity.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

BACKGROUND***Annoying A Sick Person***

A first offense of owning or harboring a barking dog that annoys a sick person is an infraction, punishable by a fine. Subsequent violators are subject to a fine of up to \$100, 30 days in jail, or both. A judge may order the dog confined or disposed of, if necessary.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 7